

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 29, 2002, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-7 contained allowable subject matter. No indication contrary to the original indication of the allowability of claims 1-7 has been made in the Office Action dated August 2, 2002. Accordingly, Applicants assume that claims 1-7 still contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1, and 3-7 have been amended. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 1, as containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such as way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. According to the Examiner, “the specification as originally filed fails to provide support for an absorbent article with a topsheet, backsheet and core and further comprising three extra layers, 1) a layer containing a skin-protective ingredient, 2) a support layer and 3) an ingredient-containing layer, the specification only has support for two extra layers 1) containing a skin-protective ingredient and 2) a support layer.”

In response to this rejection, Applicants have amended claim 1 to reflect that support for the claims is provided by the specification. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite “support layer for covering the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient.” Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

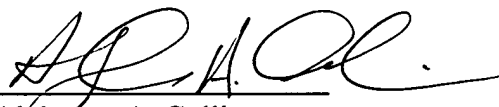
Claims 5, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 2 have been addressed by the amendments herein, with a view to each rejection raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 1, and 3-7 have been amended to address each rejection set forth by the Examiner. Since claims 1-7 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter, as noted previously, Applicants submit that all claims of record in this application are allowable.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this would expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 10, 2002


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COMPLETE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a main body including a liquid-pervious top sheet, a back sheet and an absorbent core sandwiched between the top sheet and the back sheet;

a layer containing a skin-protective ingredient; and

a support layer for covering the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient, and the support layer being provided on a surface of the main body to be in contact with skin of a wearer, wherein;

the solubility in water of the support layer is promoted at 25°C or higher, and/or the moisture absorbability or the solubility in water of the support layer is promoted at a relative humidity of at least 30 %.

3. (Twice Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient is formed of a compound capable of forming an oily film on the skin of the wearer.

4. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient can be fluidized at 35°C or higher.

5. (Twice Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient is formed of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of liquid polyisoprene, squalane, pristane, ozocerite, ceresine, microcrystalline wax, polyethylene powder, liquid paraffin, petroleum jelly, and paraffin.

6. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient and the support layer are located on a surface of the top sheet.

7. (Twice Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

which further includes at least one of a leak-preventive cuff for preventing side leakage and a leg cuff for preventing leakage through the area around the wearer's thighs, and at least one of the leak-preventive cuff and the leg cuff are located between the top sheet and the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient and the support layer.



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 2309/01158

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Takayuki HISANAKA

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Serial No.: 09/761,511

Art Unit: 3761

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Filed: January 16, 2001

Confirmation No.: 5640

For: ABSORBENT ARTICLE CONTAINING SKIN-PROTECTIVE INGREDIENT

October 10, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

MARK-UP FOR AMENDMENT OF OCTOBER 10, 2002
PURSUANT TO §1.121

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a main body including a liquid-pervious top sheet, a back sheet and an absorbent core sandwiched between the top sheet and the back sheet;

a layer containing a skin-protective ingredient; and

a support layer for covering [an ingredient-containing layer, the ingredient-containing layer] the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient, and the support layer being provided on a surface of the main body to be in contact with skin of a wearer, wherein;

the solubility in water of the support layer is promoted at 25°C or higher, and/or the moisture absorbability or the solubility in water of the support layer is promoted at a relative humidity of at least 30 %.

3. (Twice Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the layer containing [a] the skin-protective ingredient is formed of a compound capable of forming an oily film on the skin of the wearer.

4. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the layer containing [a] the skin-protective ingredient can be fluidized at 35°C or higher.

5. (Twice Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the layer containing [a] the skin-protective ingredient is formed of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of liquid polyisoprene, squalane, pristane, ozocerite, ceresine, microcrystalline wax, polyethylene powder, liquid paraffin, [VASELINE™] petroleum jelly, and paraffin.

6. (Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

wherein [the two layers] the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient and the support layer are located on [the] a surface of the top sheet.

7. (Twice Amended) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1,

which further includes at least one of a leak-preventive cuff for preventing side leakage and [and/or] a leg cuff for preventing leakage through the area around the wearer's thighs, and [layer and support layer are located on a surface of] at least one of the leak-preventive cuff [and/or] and the leg cuff are located between the top sheet and the layer containing the skin-protective ingredient and the support layer.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 10, 2002



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